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INRE-00 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 SSM-03 MCT-01 OC-06 CCO-00

IO-13 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 FEAE-00

ERDA-05 EB-07 COME-00 ERDE-00 SAM-01 DHA-02 ORM-02

AID-05 SIL-01 LAB-04 /129 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1667
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 082
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USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
CIA WASHDC
COMSIXTHFLT
COMPHIBRON FOUR
COM THREE TWO MAU
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 7244

E.O. 11762: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE
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SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION SEPTEMBER 2

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1. SUMMARY: SPECULATION CONTINUES ON SARKIS-ASSAD MEETING. LEBANESE FRONT TELLS ARAB LEAGUE IT MUST APPLY CAIRO ACCORDS. FRANGIE MAY YET SACK KARAME. EDDE AND JUNBLATT LAUNCH NEW VERBAL ATTACKS ON SYRIA. HOUGHTON AND MACK ARE BACK IN HOUNIEH. GROUND SITUATION RELATIVELY CALM, BUT SOME RENEWED BOMBARDMENT OF BEIRUT RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS. MORE PHALANGE ACTIVITY IN THE SOUTH. FIGHTING CONTINUES NEAR TRIPOLI. SYRIAN REINFORCEMENT RUMORS CONTINUE.

2. SARKIS. AS NEWS BLACKOUT ON SARKIS-ASSAD DISCUSSIONS CONTINUES, RUMOR RUNS RAMPANT. REUTER NEWS AGENCY CLAIMS, BASED ON EAST EUROPEAN SOURCE, THAT SARKIS ASKED FOR SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL AND WAS REFUSED "SO LONG AS FIGHTING CONTINUES IN LEBANON." ONLY POINTS ON WHICH ALL AGREE IS THAT SARKIS WILL NOW CONTACT REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL GROUPS TO DISCUSS THE SYRIAN CONNECTION AND, SECONDLY, THAT IF SARKIS WAS "SUCCESSFUL" IN DAMASCUS (WITH WIDELY DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS), MILITARY SITUATION WILL NOW IMPROVE -- AND VICE VERSA. SARKIS MET SEPTEMBER 1 WITH AMINE AND BECHIR GEMAYEL.
WEST BEIRUT MEETING EXPECTED SEPTEMBER 2 BETWEEN AL'S GENERAL GHONEIM AND REPRESENTATIVES OF SARKIS AND PALESTINIANS TO DISCUSS OPENING ROAD TO BAABDA VIA GALERIE SAMAAN. MOVE WOULD ENABLE SARKIS TO LIVE IN PRESIDENTIAL PALACE WHERE HE CAN KEEP CONTACT WITH ALL PARTIES.

3. ARAB LEAGUE MINI-SUMMIT. LEFTIST RADIO QUOTES PSP DEPUTY ABBAS KHALAF MINI-SUMMIT IN RIYAD BEFORE SEPTEMBER 23 SARKIS INVESTITURE. RADIO STATION SAYS SARKIS WILL REPRESENT LEBANON AND ARAFAT THE FLO.

4. LEBANESE FRONT EXAMINES AL PEACE PLAN. REPRESENTATIVES OF LEBANESE FRONT, INCLUDING PIERRE AND BECHIR GEMAYEL, A SECOND-ECHELON CHAMOUNIST AND COL. BARAKAT, MET SEPTEMBER 1 WITH AL DELEGATION UNDER GENERAL GHONEIM TO DISCUSS AL PEACE PROPOSALS. FRONT CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESENTED NOTE SAYING STRICT APPLICATION OF CAIRO ACCORDS IS AL TASK IN LEBANON AS WELL AS PREVENTION OF SUPPLY OF MEN AND MATERIAL BY MEMBER STATES TO WARRING FACTIONS. DANY CHAMOUN FOLLOWED MEETING WITH STATEMENT THAT AL PEACE PLAN IS BOUND TO FAIL AS IT ADDRESSES ONLY PARTIAL RETREATS. CHAMOUN SAYS NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY WANTS "AMILITARY AND RADICAL SOLUTION" RESULTING IN A UNITED LEBANON, WITH FOREIGNERS

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RETURNED TO THEIR COUNTRIES AND PALESTINIANS TO THEIR CAMPS. HE ADDED, "AS FOR THE LEBANESE LEFT, THAT IS OUR AFFAIR."

5. FRANGIE TO FIRE KARAME? PRESS AGAIN QUOTES SOURCES CLOSE TO KFOUR THAT FRANGIE REMAINS DETERMINED TO ASK KARAME TO STEP DOWN BEFORE SARKIS TAKES OFFICE. THIS SPECULATION MAY BE TRIAL BALLOON TO DETERMINE HOW MOVE WOULD BE RECEIVED OR INTIMIDATION TO MAKE KARAME MORE AMENABLE TO RIGHTIST DEMANDS.

6. EDDE AND JUNBLATT. NEW VERBAL ATTACKS ON SYRIA FROM RAYMOND EDDE AND KAMAL JUNBLATT CLOSELY FOLLOW SARKIS/ASSAD TALKS. EDDE SAYS "SYRIA IS IN LEBANON TO STAY," ADDING SYRIAN OBJECTIVE IS TO OCCUPY ALL LEBANON WITH "PERHAPS THE EXCEPTION OF 2,500 SQUARE KILOMETERS GIVEN TO THE KFOUR FRONT." JUNBLATT TELLS PRESS ASSAD INTENDS CREATE LEBANESE/SYRIAN FEDERATION UNDER HIS DOMINATION. DESCRIBING SYRIA AS "A LARGE PRISON," JUNBLATT CALLS ON SYRIAN PEOPLE TO RISE AGAINST ASSAD REGIME9 HE DENIES REPORTS OF INDIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN SYRIA AND NATION MOVEMENT WHILE REITERATING "NOTHING IN LEBANON CAN BE SOLVED WITHOUT THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT."

7. HOUGHTON AND MACK. AMERICAN ENVOYS ROBERT HOUGHTON AND DAVID MACK ARRIVED HOUNIEH SEPTEMBER 1 FOR FURTHER TALKS WITH RIGHTIST LEADERS. LEBANESE MEDIA PLAYING THE STORY STRAIGHT. AN NAHAR QUOTES HOUGHTON THAT, "OUR AIM IS NOT TO PRESENT SOLUTIONS BUT TO CONSULT, DISCUSS AND UNDERSTAND ATTITUDES OF PARTIES IN THIS SECTOR. HAD OFFICIALS AT US EMBASSY BEEN ABLE TO REACH HERE, WE WOULD NOT HAVE COME." TWO ENVOYS MET CONFIDENTIAL

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WITH PIERRE GEMAYEL SEPTEMBER 1 AND PLAN TO VISIT FRANGIE SEPTEMBER 2.

8. BEIRUT AREA: THEY MISSED US AGAIN. MODERATE SHELLING OF RESIDENTIAL AREAS RESUMED SEPTEMBER 1 WITH PROJECTILES FALLING IN EAST BEIRUT ON ACHRAFIYYAH AND FURN EL-CHEBBAK AND INNWEST BEIRUT NEAR AMEMBASSY IN AIN AL-MERISSE, RAS BEIRUT AND MAZRAA. BRAWLING IN AIN AL-MERISSE BETWEEN JUNBLATTIS AND ARAB SOCIALIST UNION CONTINUES. COMMUNIST NEWSPAPERS AL NIDA REPORTS COMMUNIST CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER KIVORK DERNICKOESIAN WAS ASSASSINATED AUGUST 25. ONE REPORT SAYS PPS (PARTIE POPULAIRE SYRIENNE) LEADER ANTOINE UBEID WAS KIDNAPPED AUGUST 30, PERHAPS BY ELEMENTS LOYAL TO SAEB SALAM, AND NOT YET RELEASED.

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CLASHES CONTINUE ALONG CENTER CITY CONFRONTATION LINE,
NEAR GALERIE SAMAAN AND ALONG CAMILLE CHAMOUN
BOULEVARD. SUBURBS REMAIN HOT WITH HEAVY SHELLING
BETWEEN AIN EL-RUMMANEH AND CHIYAH.

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
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USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
CIA WASHDC
COMSIXTHFLT
COMPHIBRON FOUR
COM THREE TWO MAU
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
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9. IN THE SOUTH. ANOTHER CLASH REPORTED AT SOUTH LEBANON BORDER VILLAGE OF AIN EBEL, SEPTEMBER 1 CONFIDENTIAL

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WITH EXCHANGE OF FIRE BETWEEN MARONITE VILLAGERS AND "ARMED ELEMENTS" PRESUMED TO BE PALESTINIANS. CORRESPONDENT CLAIMS HE SAW MEN WEARING KATAEB ARM BAND FOR FIRST TIME NEAR LEBANON/ISRAEL BORDER. VOICE OF LEBANON (KATAEB) REPORTS INCREASE IN MOVEMENT OF ISRAELI MILITARY VEHICLES NEAR LEBANON BORDER. HEAVY EXCHANGES OF ARTILLERY FIRE BETWEEN SYRIANS AT JEZZINE AND LEFTIST/PALESTINIANS NEAR ROUM. WE UNDERSTAND SMALL AIRFIRLDS AT NABATIYYAH AND BA'ADRAN ARE BOTH NOW IN OPERATION AND ARE PROVIDING LIMITED RESUPPLY TO LEFTIST/PALESTINIANS. PLO REPORTEDLY ESTABLISHED NEW TRAINING CAMP AND AMMO STORAGE FACILITY SOUTHWEST OF BA'AQLIN.

10. GROUND SITUATION ELSEWHERE. HEAVY FIGHTING REPORTED FROM NORTH WHERE LEFTISTS SAY THEY REPULSED RIGHTIST ADVANCE ON ALMA. TRIPOLI SHELLED BY RIGHTISTS SEPTEMBER 1. ARTILLERY DUELS CONTINUE IN METN BETWEEN SALIMA/BAABDATE AND ZANDOUKA/BROUMMANA. ALEY AND KAHALE ALSO EMBROILED. WE HAVE UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT SOME 40 SYRIAN TANKS CROSSED BORDER AT MASNAA SEPTEMBER 1, BUT WE DOUBT IT.

11. GOL HAS MOVED TO PROVISIONALLY TAKE OVER MOBIL AND ESSO DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES THROUGH GOL-LABOR UNION COMMITTEE TO KEEP THEM IN OPERATION (SEPTEL). LANE

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